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Crittenton was "home" to unwed mothers

Charities (T.H.)

Sp JUN 14 1975

Only Yesterday

By Frances E. Hughes

Changing moral values and greater social acceptance of unwed mothers have reduced the role of the traditional maternity homes. Such changes caused the closing of the local Florence Crittenton Home in November of 1972.

A few months ago, the board of directors of the home voted to dissolve the nonprofit organization, and with the money obtained from the sale of the home at 1923 Poplar Street established the Florence Crittenton Scholarship at Indiana State University and made a contribution to the Glenn Home Scholarship Fund. The YMCA also received a gift; a portion of which will be used for a project for school-age parents. The larger part of the YW gift will be applied to the YWCA Building Fund.

The building that housed the Crittenton Home during the almost 70 years of its existence was sold in December, 1973.

The Florence Crittenton Home was started in 1906 because of a call to the National Florence Crittenton Mission by the Women's Christian Temperance Union of Terre Haute. The WCTU asked Florence Crittenton agents to come here to hold meetings in the interest of rescue work among young women.

December 6, 1906

Mrs. Kate Waller Barrett responded, and after a week of meetings, an organization meeting was held December 6, 1906, with Mrs. Barrett presiding and Mrs. A.C. DeBord acting as secretary.

On motion of the Rev. W. H. McCaughey, pastor of the Central Presbyterian Church, a Crittenton Circle was organized and the following officers elected: Mrs. Fred Smith, president: Mrs. Emil Froeb, vice president; Mrs. A. W. Farnham, recording secretary; Mrs. J. T. Cassell, corresponding secretary and Mrs. Anna Hayman, treasurer.

On December 18 of that year, a board of managers made up of representative men and women was elected. The chairman, Judge Sidney B. Davis, was then a member of the State Board of Charities and was connected with a number of the leading philanthropic movements of the city. Through his influence, many persons became interested.

Other board members were the Rev. S. E. Long, A. C. DeBord, Mrs. S. C. Stimson, Dr. W. H. Waters, Miss Fannie Worsham, Prof, A. R. Charman, Mrs. Anna Palmateer, Mrs. J. W. Mellish and Mrs. Silas Beach.

Funds for setting up the home were raised in part by Dr. L. D. Sturgis, who was sent to Terre Haute by the national Mission but whose salary was paid by the local board. After addressing congregations of churches in and around Terre Haute, he received a number of pledges and donations.

With this money as a start, the board leased a house at 2005 North Thirteenth Street, for $50 a month on December 1, 1907. There was an option to purchase it for $8,000, which was never exercised because adjacent property owners filed a protest against setting up the home at that address.

Because of this hostility, the board looked for other property and, after being inspected, the property at 1923 Poplar Street was purchased and remained the site of the home until its closing. The purchase price was $7,5000, of which a first payment of $2,000 was made on March 1, 1907.

Many years

The Terre Haute Crittenton Circle undertook to pay $500, and the National Mission paid $500, leaving $1,000 to be raised by popular subscription. It was to be many years before the heavy mortgage for the remainder of the purchase price was paid off.

Miss Jennie M. Rutan, organizer for the National Mission, came to Terre Haute and acted as superintendent of the home until someone could be engaged to serve permanently. Miss Mary Mullen, who had been in Florence Crittenton work for three years in Portland, Ore., soon came to take charge of the new home, with Miss Nellie Harmon as assistant.

Miss Harmon was soon obliged to leave because of illness, and her place was taken by Miss Sarah Williams (later Mrs. Charles McKeen), who was very efficient and later served as an active member of the board of the home and chairman of the case committee.

Formal dedication of the home was held in October, 1907, with Charles Crittenton as special guest.

There were many improvements and additions to the home over the years, with members of both the senior and auxiliary boards working to improve the conditions and provide help in many ways to the approximately 8,000 young women who went there for help.

Closed 1917-1921

There was a time from Sept. 10, 1917 until May 21, 1921 when the home was closed because of lack of funds. During this period, calls kept coming in from girls needing the services of the home. So pressing did the need appear, that it was decided to reopen the home even though no funds were available.

For many years, the only income on which the home could rely with assurance was an allowance of $25 per month from the city and an equal amount from the county. The remainder had to be raised by bazaars, rummage sales, teas, donations, etc. Finally, the home became a member of the Welfare League, later the Community Chest and now the United Way. Also, money was received from the county for handling court cases from those girls who could afford to pay. No United Way money was received the last two years the home was in existence.

The mortgage on the building was burned in 1927 at a special luncheon at which the 20th anniversary of the founding of the home was celebrated.

Of the many young women who received care there for themselves and their illegitimate babies, few were from Terre Haute. Of the many from out of town, most were referrals from doctors, ministers, attorneys, welfare associations, child adoption agencies and courts. Local girls were sent to Crittenton Homes or other homes for unwed mothers in other cities.

No girl was refused shelter there because of money. She paid if she could and if not, welfare paid the costs. Besides the United Way, Elks Lodges of Indiana donated liberally to the home, and the members of both boards had many money-making ventures for the home. The senior board was responsible for the operation and supervision of the staff and the auxiliary board was in charge of educational and recreational programs for the girls. The auxiliary board was organized later than the senior board.

134 in one year

During the early days, the Crittenton Home had the support of many circles in other Indiana towns. When it was first organized, the Vincennes Circle gave $500 toward its expenses, and help also came from Florence Crittenton organizations in Brazil, Princeton, Sullivan and South Bend, Ind., and Paris, Ill.

Many of the girls came to the home as wards of the Juvenile Court or were otherwise classed as delinquents. Sometimes, these girls were permitted to go to neighboring households to help out, learn home making and earn a little spending money.

Originally, the home could care for only 12 girls at a time but at the time it was closed, 32 girls could be taken care of at one time. The largest number ever to enter the home was 134 in one year.

For years Dr. A.H. Caffee, examining physician, and Dr. L. Siebenmorgen, pediatrician, gave their services free for all county cases but for many years, doctors charged the home for their services.

Until the 1940s, there was a delivery room at the home. The girls kept their babies and had to take care of them for from six weeks to two months, even if they

next page please

independent of Chamber of Commerce

A number of Terre Haute's leading retail merchants made plans to organize a Retail Merchants Association to act independently of the Chamber of Commerce.

"We are going to put Terre Haute on the map," said one of the merchants immediately after the meeting. "First we will try and get better cooperation among the merchants. Then, we will get busy on Terre Haute," he said.

He noted all the merchants were also members of the Chamber. "But the Chamber of Commerce has its hands tied. It can't do very much right now, though Secretary Rakemann is trying mighty hard."

Conner J. Smith Receives Wiley Medal for Highest Average

Virtue received its reward this week when Conner J. Smith, a member of this year's graduating class of Wiley High, was tendered the gold medal offered by Prof. W. H. Wiley, "the grand old man of education in Terre Haute." Smith received the fourth such award from the hand of Prof. Wiley for attaining an average of 95.62 during his four years of high school.

Prof. Wiley, to the enthusiastic applause of the students, pinned the gold medal on Smith and commended the boy for his fine work. He urged him to do as well in the future when he faces greater problems to conquer.

Prof. Wiley delivered an oration on taxes and said "the reason taxes are so high is that they go for things that are unnecessary and can be dispensed with without much trouble.

Mr. and Mrs. George Oscar Dix, 1333 South Center, entertained informally at dinner at their home Wednesday evening in honor of Mrs. Walter Buckner and daughter Mary, who are the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Omar Mewhinney.

Mrs. James Swango, 1205 S. Sixth, has as her guest this week, Mrs. Charles Schwain of Washington, D. C.

Mrs. Andrew Crawford, 925 S. Center, has as her guest this week her mother, Mrs. H. W. Canfield of Thomasville, Gr. Mrs. Canfield arrived last Friday and will leave Saturday for Chicago.

Dr. Will Kunkler, assisted by Miss Bessie Conlon, was host for a dinner party at Hillcrest farm Tuesday evening, honoring Miss Shaunnessy of Chicago, house guest of Mr. and Mrs. John Hickey.

Mrs. Keith Cwen, Davis Gardens, is entertaining with a luncheon at the Terre Haute Country Club today in honor of Mrs. H. W. Canfield.

Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College Graduates 29 Young Women

Amid tears and smiles, 29 young women received their diplomas and certificates Tuesday at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods and almost immediately scattered all over the United States.

They made a sweet, almost wistful picture, in their simple white gowns, these girl graduates, so proudly wearing for their first time their black caps and gowns of the university woman. Their youthful faces were earnest as they curtsied low in the quaint, old-fashioned way that S. Mary's graduates have always curtisied received their diplomas.

from page 30

Crittenton Home closes

planned to give them up for adoption. This custom was stopped about 30 years ago, and since then, the girl had a choice as to whether or not she would see her baby but was discouraged from seeing and feeding it if she was to give it up.

About 1950, the girls were delivered of their babies in the hospital and then stayed at the home for recuperation for several days. In recent years, most of the girls gave their babies for adoption.

Occasionally, there was a 12-year-old in the home, but the age was usually from 13 to 42 years of age. These were girls of all walks of life. Pregnant girls could not attend high school (although they could attend college) and many completed their high school work while in the home. The home paid for part-time teachers and later the Vigo County School Corporation sent teachers to Crittenton.

Services of the Katherine Hamilton Mental Health Association personnel also were used at the home. Adoptions were all through the Welfare Department or adoption agencies.

Mrs. Bea Gore was the last director of the home. She served in that capacity from 1960 until the home closed in 1972. She was preceded by Mrs. Thomas Dwyer, who served as director for 18 years. The last teacher was Miss Thelma Jobe.

Assisting Mrs. Gore were Mrs. Grace Fuson and Mrs. Margaret Martin, supervisors; and Mrs. Robert Biel, part-time case worker. Mrs. Charles Blaney was the last board president.

Why did Crittenton Home close? Because there is no longer a stigma attached to illegitimacy and many parents keep the girls illegitimate child. Also, because of the pill and other contraceptives, and abortions, there are fewer illegitimate children.

SENIOR CITIZENS' MENU

Monday, June 16

Hamburger
Catsup or Mustard
Tater Tots
Sliced Tomato and Lettuce
Bun
Margarine
Ice Cream
Milk
Coffee/Tea

Tuesday, June 17

Ham and Au-Gratin Potatoes
Juice
Chopped Spinach
Lime Perfection Salad
Rye Bread
Margarine
White Cake
Milk
Coffee/Tea

Wednesday, June 18

Swiss Steak
Whipped Potatoes
Butter Beets
Whole Wheat Bread
Margarine
Tapioca Pudding
Milk
Coffee/Tea

Thursday, June 19

Beef and Noodles
Buttered Carrots
Tossed Salad
Roll
Margarine
Plums - Purple
Milk
Coffee/Tea

Friday, June 20

Ham and Beans
V-8 Juice
Cole Slaw
Corn Bread
Margarine
Oatmeal Cookie
Peach Half
Milk
Coffee/Tea

ENJOY LIFE! HEAR AGAIN
with a new *Beltone* **HEARING AID**

Beltone Hearing Aid Center
215 Merchants Bank Bldg.
232-8172

FLORENCE CRITTENTON HOME

The Florence Crittention Assoc. of America was absorbed by: (in 1976)

Child Welfare League of America
440 FIRST ST. N.W.
Washington D.C. 20001

Phone: (202) 638-2952

The home in Vigo County was closed in 1972.

Mary Stevens (Mrs. Howard Stevens) was on the board of the Crittenton Home when it closed.

She said everything in the file was in code, and that all the files were destroyed.

June 24 - 1992

Florence Crittenton Home To Mark 50 Years of Service In 1957

JUL 30 1956

Florence Crittenton Home, a Red Feather agency which provides housing, supervision and medical care to unmarried expectant mothers, will mark 50 years of service next year.

Since it was established here under the supervision of the National Crittenton Homes, it has cared for more than 2,000 girls coming not only from Vigo county and other parts of Indiana but from other sections of the country. Last year 76 girls benefited from the home's services.

Until 1954 only 14 young women could be accommodated, but a $50,000 remodeling program that year enlarged facilities to provide room for 26 girls.

Board Directs Home.

Finances and management of the home are the responsibilities of a senior board of directors while a junior board supervises the educational and social program and rehabilitation efforts.

Monthly parties, summer picnics and a Christmas party are given for the entertainment of the girls and they are instructed in typing, shorthand, cooking, English, history and mathematics in the educational program. Handwork and crafts also are taught to the girls as a part of the rehabilitation program.

Mrs. Thomas Dwyer, a registered nurse, has been director of the home for the past 14 years, working under the administration of the senior board. Also employed, to work under her direction, are a cook, housekeeper, practical nurse and another registered nurse. However, the girls also assist with the housekeeping and cooking as a part of their responsibility to the home and their rehabilitation.

The girls are taken to local hospitals for the births of their babies as full facilities are available there that could not be made possible in a home delivery room. These babies are placed for adoption by the adoption department of the Vigo County Department of Publi Welfare unless the mothers choos to keep them. Babies placed fo adoption are given legally t couples who qualify for all th necessary requirements so tha they will receive the right kind o care and home life.

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Community Affairs File

April 20, 1952
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Charities (TH)

Over The Years Crittenton Home Carries On In Its Own Way

By A. R. Markle.

Charles N. Crittenton was a wealthy druggist of New York City who lost his beloved four-year-old daughter from a sudden attack of diphtheria in the spring of 1882. Overcome by grief he sought some outside activities which would ease his heartbreak. That fall he founded a mission on Bleeker Street in connection with many prominent clergymen and laymen, which was called the "Florence Mission," in honor of his daughter.

The most tragic cases which attended this mission were many unwed pregnant young women with no other place to go, and in time to avoid misinterpretations by using the surname, the family name of Crittenton was added.

The idea came to him that such an organization might save many of these unfortunates from utter degradation and might restore many of them to happy, useful lives.

Generous Citizen.

He traveled extensively, both in this country and in foreign lands, where similar conditions existed. The idea was endorsed by both houses of Congress, who recognized the effectiveness of the movement, and charters were granted to the institutions bearing the Florence Crittenton name.

Previous to 1906 Mr. Crittenton had become interested in establishing a Mission in our city. The appeal had been made by charity workers and many other warm-hearted citizens who had heard the cry of these unfortunates. In many cases they were turned out to distant cities with no place to live, nothing to eat, and no chance to begin life and regain a measure of emotional stability and independence.

Interest developed into actuality, and in that year, 1906, a Florence Crittenton Mission was established in Terre Haute and a door was opened to all such unfortunate young women, regardless of their status in life or their religious beliefs. This home was established at 1823 Poplar street, the former home of the Temple family.

Among the early officers were Judge Sidney B. Davis, who was the first president and who continued as such for many years; Frank Carmack, who was vice president for several years; A. R. Charman, of the Normal School, who acted as recording secretary; Dow R. Gwinn, treasurer, who was for many years the manager of the Water Works Company. In addition to these officers, the earliest Board of Directors also included Reverend S. E. Long, Reverend L. C. Talmage, S. M. Cowgill, Mrs. S. C. Stimson and Mrs. Charles E. McKeen.

The third annual report of the superintendent for 1909 showed nine girls residing there at the beginning of that year and 23 who entered during the year. Of that number, 11 had been motherless from early childhood; one fatherless; one worse than motherless; marital unpleasantness had marred the homes of others. All had been pushed out into the world at a very early age to earn their living, and to pay the penalty for their erred ways. Three were only 12 years old; one 14, one 15, one 16 and the others with three exceptions, averaged from 17 to 18 years of age.

More than a temporary home was offered them. They were taught many useful methods of earning an honest living ,technical instruction was given in many whenever advisable, and many rearts, permanent homes were found turned to their parents from whom they had been separted for months and sometimes years. Statistics of the year 1908 showed that 85 per cent of the girls cared for in the home left to go out and live honest, true lives, assured of the forgiveness of the error, which, even today, was so often the result of circumstances rather than of intentional evil.

The home has continued uninterruptedly since that time and has never closed its doors to any young girl in need. Whereas the early entrants came from not more than about 150 miles within a radius of Terre Haute, the home now takes girls from any part of Indiana, and in some cases from more distant points. However, they have not been able to expand their earlier facilities; still being able to care for only about 23 girls at a time.

Through the years the home has had very able superintendents, who not only gave of their training, but of their personal instruction as well. Among the list in the later years have been Mrs. Harriet E. Oakley, Monica Monroe, Mrs. Josephine Webster, Miss Mary Kilroy, Margaret Forsythe, and the present superintendent, Mrs. Arlie L. Dwyer. Mrs. Dwyer has served this post, except for a brief period when she returned to her nursing profession, since 1942, and many girls have left the home uplifted in many, many ways by her interest in them.

The growth of the organization can be seen from the list of directors. They are separated into three groups: the Advisory Board, consisting of 18 members; the Senior Board, having 18 members; and the Junior Board being represented by 30 members.

Disposal of Cases.

The medical attention is excellent, due to the fact, the director is a graduate nurse, and the home is never without a nurse present or on call. There is a staff of 12 doctors who have monthly meetings with the director, and nothing for the welfare of the girls is overlooked. The hopsitalization is taken care of by the State Board of Health, Division of Maternity and Infant Care, in the case of a girl or her family not being able to pay.

The keeping of the baby is another one of the many problems that arise, and again, there is a Welfare worker who confers weekly with each girl until a solution agreeable to both is met. In the case of adoption, that, too, is gone over with a fine tooth comb, and the baby is placed in an environment that represents as near as possible the one that it should normally receive.

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CRITTENTON HOME

Crittenton Home Closing Scheduled in Near Future

CHARITIES (WU)

TS OCT 2 2 1972

By MARY ANNE PIERCE
Tribune Staff Writer

A young girl walks through the bronze and red fallen leaves to the sprawling grey house tucked behind shrubs and redwood fencing.

She glances at her watch as she opens the door to a sun-specked porch — 8:45 a.m. — breakfast should be nearly over. A light touch to the bell sends an echo along the hall and brings a familiar face to the door.

"Hello, I thought I would stop by. Can I see my old room," the caller asks.

The scene has been a common one over the years at 1923 Poplar Street, the address of Crittenton Home. Girls who lived there until their illegitimate child was born have often renewed friendships with the staff through visits and letters.

In the near future, however, should a young woman decide to visit Crittenton, she will find a considerable change.

As sure as the remaining leaves will fall from the towering Maple trees, Crittenton Home will close as winter sets in. Like many agencies providing homes for unwed mothers, the Florence Crittenton Association of America, Inc., has been forced to discontinue its services in numerous cities.

The increased financial burden of its operation, changes in birth control practices and abortion laws and the fact more unwed mothers are keeping their babies are reasons behind the action.

MRS. ROBERT GORE, Director

Mrs. Robert Gore has been director of the home for 12 years. She began to see a drop in occupancy rates in 1969, particularly among the college age residents. That was the year abortion laws were relaxed in many states.

Before then, Crittenton Home had averaged 128 to 138 residents a year and nearly all placed their babies up for adoption. Today, the average age of the unwed mother has dipped to the 14-to-15-year-old level and she is keeping her child.

"Some keep them because of peer pressure. Others feel once the father sees the child he will instantly fall in love with her," Mrs. Gore explained. The illegitimacy that was once a closely guarded secret from the girl's community is no longer so. She has visitors and corresponds with her friends during her stay. Too few realize the responsibility they will face if they keep the child.

Those turning to maternity homes as solution to their problems continue to represnt all walks of life but fewer are from wealthy families. "These girls are having abortions today," the director said.

Maternity homes across the country have moved into other areas of service as the number of residents declined. In Terre Haute, the 90-year-old structure will be sold and the money reserved for future use.

If the need arises for a smaller home in the future the funds will be there, Mrs. Gore said. Board members have also considered turning their attention to a program for predelinquent girls or offering some type of day program for unwed mothers. Contact has been made with area judges to check their reactions to a delinquency program. Mrs. Gore is not too optimistic about its development. Cost of a day program is a stumbling block in the way of its development.

Meanwhile, the two remaining residents have only two months before delivery of their babies and board members are preparing to dispose of some furniture and other items in the home.

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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Florence Crittenden Home T.H. Community Chest
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THE TERRE HAUTE STAR, WE

Thirteenth Series T.H. Star 10/3/51

Community Affair

Know Your Community Chest Aims, Accomplishments

Charities (T.H.)

A SIX-DAY-OLD BABY GIRL has her first picture taken in the nursery of the Florence Crittenton Home, another of the 20 agencies supported by the Vigo County Community Chest. Mrs. Thomas Dwyer, director of the maternity home, holds the baby to show it to the Red Feather Kids, Sissie, Georgie and Martin.

So quietly and discreetly that you seldom realize its existence, a Terre Haute Red Feather service has been working wonders with tragic young lives. To hundreds of unmarried mothers and their babies, the Florence Crittenton Home has meant the difference between utter despair and a future of hope . . . the one chance for them to rebuild their lives and become happy, normal, useful citizens.

Through its splendid services since 1906, hundreds of girls have been prevented from becoming social burdens and problems to the community.

+ + +

WHO ARE these girls? In most respects they are completely varied as to race, religion, economic status and family background. But they all have one thing in common—a desperate need for help—physical, mental and spiritual help. And no one who applies to the home is refused help.

From the time she is admitted to the home, each girl receives thorough and competent medical care from the excellent staff which includes three registered nurses and twelve physicians. She becomes a regular patient of her doctor who has charge of her prenatal care, delivery and post natal care.

Up to the limits of present space, Mrs. Dwyer said, girls live in the home from four to six months while every possible help is given in working out the problems involved in their individual situations. And there are many problems always. Should she tell her parents? Should she marry the father of the child? What about the baby? What shall she do after this is over? Where can she live? What work can she find?

+ + +

IN MEETING these problems the girls have regular interviews with a trained case worker who helps concentrate upon developing a healthy, hopeful approach to her future and the future of her baby. Counseling and education fill individual needs — training in home economics, knitting, sewing, even continuation of school work for some. And spiritual guidance and rehabilitation are accomplished through daily devotional services and the help of members of the local ministerial association.

At least two lives are shadowed by each case at the Florence Crittenton Home, for the baby born out of wedlock would not ordi-

DWYER, ARLIE L TRIB STAR SEPTEMBER 30, 1988

Arlie L. Dwyer

Arlie L. Dwyer, 89, of 1238 S. Brown Ave. died at 9 p.m. Wednesday in her residence. She was a retired registered nurse. She was born Dec. 11, 1898, in Coalmont to Charles and Mina Lester. Her husband, Thomas J. Dwyer, died in 1986. Survivors include two daughters, Marian Jones of Louisville, Ky., and Rosemary Campbell of Clinton; three grandsons; one great-grandchild; two nieces and one nephew. She was a 1921 graduate of Union Hospital School of Nursing and a charter member of Terre Haute Bible Center. Services are scheduled for 1 p.m. Saturday in Callahan & Hughes Funeral Home, with the Rev. Vern J. Denham officiating. Burial is in Roselawn Memorial Park. Visitation is 4 to 8 p.m. today.

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DYAR, AZIEL R TRIB STAR SEPTEMBER 21, 1985

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Aziel R. Dyar

WORTHINGTON — Aziel R Dyar, 80, Route 2, died at 10:45 a.m. Friday in Greene County General Hospital, of natural causes. He was a retired plaster contractor and a retired farmer. He was born March 4, 1905, in Owen County to George Dyar and Ella Sweringen Dyar. Survivors include his wife, Truly Singers Dyar; one son, Merle, Indianapolis; two sisters, Barbara Reynolds, Isle of Palms, S.C., and Patricia Hays, Crown Point; 11 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. He was a member of Christian Church. Services are scheduled for 2 p.m. Sunday in Welch and Cornett Funeral Home. Burial is in Pleasant Bethel Cemetery. Visitation is 5 to 9 p.m today and 11 a.m. until services.

F Charities (I, H) Vigo Count

Crittenton Boards Pay Tribute to Bea Gore

DEC 8 1972

Community Affairs File

Mrs. Robert (Bea) Gore, who has served as director of the local Florence Crittenton Home for the past 12 years, was honored at a Tribute Luncheon Thursday at the Home by members of the Board of Directors and the Auxiliary Board.

Mrs. L. D. Melvin, board president, presented a silver tray to Mrs. Gore as a gift of appreciation for her service from both boards.

During the years of Mrs. Gore's service at the home, some 1,500 unwed mothers were in residence there, and more than 2,000 families in the community received aid through plans being made for girls to attend a Crittenton Home elsewhere.

Due to a reduced need for the facilities, the Home officially closed Nov. 18, and plans are being made to dispose of the building. As of Jan. 1, the board of directors and the auxiliary board will merge and function as one governing board. If the need arises at a later date, a smaller establishment may be opened.

The Florence Crittenton Home was started in Terre Haute, at its present location in 1907, and has functioned until the closing date, except between 1917 and 1921, when it was closed because of lack of funds. When the Community Chest was organized, funds were made available.

The aim of the home was to shelter the unwed pregnant young woman, and to council and guide her during her stay, so she could return home as a valuable and responsible member of her community. In turn, the girls gave volunteer service to the community by helping the Red Cross and United Fund by addressing and stuffing envelopes.

No adoptions were handled by the Home, but by qualified adoption agencies.

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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Florence Crittenton Home

T JAN 1 8 1973

CRITTENTON HOME FUNDS SCHOLARSHIP — Representatives of the Auxiliary Board of Florence Crittenton Home of Terre Haute met recently with Carl Parks, executive director of the ISU Foundation, to complete plans for the establishment of a scholarship fund at Indiana State University. With Parks are, from lower left, clockwise: Mrs. Byron Barton, board president; Mrs. Gordon Stauffer, Mrs. James Cristee, Mrs. Robert Beall and Mrs. Robert Richeson.

Community Affairs File

Crittenton Auxiliary Sets Scholarship

T JAN 1 5 1973

Charities (T.H.)

The Auxiliary Board of the Florence Crittenton Home of Terre Haute has established a scholarship at Indiana State University which will be awarded annually to a female student.

The fund will provide financial assistance to a sophomore, junior, or senior woman student who is in good scholastic standing at the university and who is enrolled in a degree curriculum in home economics, nursing, speech and hearing, sociology, art, music, English or other appropriate fields.

First of the scholarships will be awarded in the 1973 fall semester, according to Carl Parks, executive director of the ISU Foundation.

Members of the Crittenton Home Auxiliary Board's who completed arrangements for the scholarship fund with the Foundation are Mrs. Gordon Stauffer, treasurer; Mrs. James Cristee, Mrs. Robert Beall, Mrs. Robert Richeson, Mrs. Byron Barton, president; and Mrs. Jo[illegible] Kite.

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T.H.-Charities.

Crittenton Home Plans Fund Drive

T.H. Trib. 9/8/71

TERRE HAUTE TRIB

A public campaign fund-raising drive is underway by the Board of Directors of the Florence Crittenton Home.

The fund-raising drive was necessitated by the board following the announcement the home was dropped from the 1972 budget of the Wabash Valley United Fund.

Financial chairman of the Crittenton Home, John W. Dinkel Sr., said that letters of solicitation have been mailed this week.

Dinkel emphasized the fact that persons wishing to make contributions must make them directly to the home. The pledges to the home, Dinkel said, cannot be included in the individual's United Fund pledges.

Dinkel said he was hopeful the home could raise at least $9,500 from contributions. This is the amount the home has received the past two years from the United Fund.

Crittenton Home, the only one in Indiana, has been in operation in Terre Haute since 1906.

During that time, thousands of girls have been served and many local families who might have been childless have enjoyed babies from the Home.

Educational facilities are provided so that the young girls

Continued On Page 7, Col. 1.

JOHN DINKLE, SR.

Crittenton

Continued From Page One.

primarily found at the Home today may continue their schooling and receive credits. No other maternity Home in the state provides this service.

Although the need for a home for unwed mothers is not as great as in the past because of the pill and the lessening of stigma attached to illegitimacy, there is still a need for this service to girls, according to Dinkle. Most who enter the Home now are in their teens. These are different types of girls than formerly with more psychological problems from home life and family, he said. They really need help.

The campaign is being conducted by mail. However, anyone wishing to donate may do so by contacting the Home.

Community Affairs File

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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

MISSION FOUNDER TELLS OF HIS WORK

Charles N. Crittenton Moves Audience to Tears by Stories of Traps for Girls.

HOMES SAVE MANY FROM SIN

Plea is Made for Support of Institution Founded in Terre Haute.

Charities (N. Y.)

Often moved to tears, the large audience in the Central Presbyterian Church yesterday afternoon heard Charles M. Crittenton give his lecture on the Florence Crittenton Homes of America. After he had finished, the Rev. Dr. W. H. McCaughey, pastor of the church made a brief report of the condition of the Crittenton home of this city.

Mr. Crittenton outlined the movement of establishing the homes in the large cities of the country and interspersed his remarks with relations of many pathetic incidents which have come within the scope of his experience. His vivid descriptions of the sad situations moved his hearers to tears and it is thought that he succeeded in creating a lasting interest in the great work in which he is engaged.

The loss of a child twenty-five years ago, so affected Mr. Crittenton, that he was prompted to lay aside his successful business in New York and take up the missionary work, which he is now doing. His first home was established in New York City in 1883. Since that time a great work has been accomplished, not only in that metropolis, but in all the chief cities of the land.

Great Work of Mission.

Mr. Crittenton said that in the year 1907 the Florence Mission in New York alone saved the souls of 1800 girls. In the whole country, he says that the homes aid over 60,000 girls annually. The annual cost for each girl saved, he said, amounts to about $12.50, which is an astonishingly low figure considering the result obtained.

The most prevalent agents in dragging young girls into the lower world, Mr. Crittenton said, are the public dancing halls, skating rinks, drunkenness and mock marriage. He told a story of a Boston girl who was picked up on the streets of New York and when her story was heard it was found that she had been brought to the city by a man to whom she thought she was married. It was simply a case of misplaced confidence and when the rascal who had induced her to leave home got her to New York he abandoned her to her fate. She was taken to the Florence Crittenton Mission and saved. He told of a skating rink in the heart of New York, in which the police say that there are more lives wrecked in a year than in any other place in the city.

At the close of the Crittenton lecture, Dr. McCaughey asked the audience to remain a few minutes while he made a report of the Florence Crittenton home of this city. He is chairman of the committee which has the home in charge and knows more of the situation that perhaps anyone else in the city.

"Many do not realize that the home is in operation and that the foundation for a great work has been started," he said. "It is not difficult to get girls to enter the home and we are already hampered by lack of room. In order that the people may get a more exact idea of just what is being done we have arranged to receive visitors next Wednesday. We want you to come between the hours of 4 and 6 and 7 and 9 and see for yourselves.

"The property which we now occupy, on Popular street just above Twenty-third street, was purchased late in last February. The price paid was $7,500. We have been told by real estate men that we got it at a bargain and we can sell for more money at most any time. We have paid $2,500 and have the property mortgaged for the remainder. The parent society of New York agrees to pay one-sixth of the price of such homes, half when the purchase is first made and the other half when it is paid for.

"The house should have $2,500 expended on it to fit it for the best work. We need many new appliances and hope to get them soon. On the furnishings we have spent $1,200, which has fitted it conveniently, though not luxuriantly.

"Since the home has been in operation we have sheltered 19 girls. There are nine in the institution now. We can accommodate but 12 and at one time during the year we reached the maximum limit. We sent seven girls back to their fathers and mothers and we are convinced that 17 of the 19 were thoroughly reformed."

In closing his remarks Dr. McCaughey made a plea for contributions to support the home. He passed blank cards through the audience and asked the people to fill them out, designating the amount they cared to contribute monthly, quarterly or annually and the number of years which they desired the contributions to continue.

In the morning Mr. Crittenton spoke at the First Baptist Church from the text, Luke 5:32: "I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." A large audience heard this able plea.

For the evening service at Centenary M. E. Church there was a great throng, the churches uniting in union service. Mr. Crittenton's address was on "Seeking the Lost," and a deep impression was made on his hearers.

Crittenton Home

THE TERRE HAUTE MORNING STAR, MONDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1907.

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Linda Seger Crittenton Award Winner

Terre Haute T. H.

APR 5 1972

A Jasper sophomore at Indiana State University, Linda Seger, is the first recipient of a scholarship established with the ISU Foundation by the Board of the Florence Crittenton Home of Terre Haute.

Miss Seger, 19-year-old elementary education major, was awarded the $100 scholarship primarily on the basis of her scholarship in her chosen field. She carries a grade point average of 3.89 (based on a maximum 4.0) scale and has been on the Dean's List each semester of her college career.

In addition to Alpha Lambda Delta, freshman women's honorary, she has membership on her residence hall planning board, is vice president of the Student Council for Exceptional Children, has been a volunteer at Hyte Center and the Red Cross Learn-to-Swim program and is second vice president of the Indiana YARC. She plans to attend the national convention of the CEC in New York later this month.

Miss Seger is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Seger, 901 Dorbett St., Jasper and is a graduate of Jasper High School.

Presentation of the award was made by Mrs. Byron K. Barton, vice president of the Crittenton Home Board; Mrs. Robert Richeson, secretary, and Mrs. Gordon Stauffer, board member, and Carl Parks, executive director of the ISU Foundation.

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Crittenden Home Board Contributes to YW Drive

JAN 10 1975

A $7,500 gift from the board of the Florence Crittenden Home to the Young Women's Christian Association boosts the YW's building program by $5,000 and provides $2,500 for a service program, according to Mrs. Eva Hopp, executive director of the YWCA.

The building program is in the final phase of funding for a new YW to be constructed at Fairbanks Park near the site of the headquarters of the Covered Bridge Scout Council.

The remaining $2,500 of the gift will be used for a program to assist school age parents. Mrs. Hopp said this program is in the "initial planning stage with other community organizations."

She added that since the closing of the Crittenden Home some time ago, the YWCA has helped several girls who were in need of the service which had been offered by the Home for unwed mothers.

Don Pendergast, general chairman for the building fund campaign, said Thursday he hoped the final contributions would be turned in by next Wednesday, the deadline for the drive initiated almost two and one-half years ago.

According to a story in the July 13, 1973, issue of the Terre Haute Star, the campaign at that time "topped the halfway point." Pendergast said. He reported at that time that with the property grant from the city, the existing YWCA assets and more than $250,000 already received in pledges, "we are well over halfway and the construction of the new building is assured."

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Community Affairs File

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June 26 2011
Trib. Star

Tales of anguish, touch the Florence Crittenton home

In February 1911 – 100 years ago – the Florence Crittenton Home of Terre Haute at 1923 Poplar St. was preparing to celebrate its fourth year of existence.

The home opened in March 1907. In four years, 109 girls resided there. During 1910, the home sheltered 35 young girls.

A. Jeannette Smith, superintendent of the home in Terre Haute, revealed that a movement was initiated in Indiana by educators and philanthropists to make moral education a part of the school curriculum.

The format for the idea was based upon ideas published by the Spokane Society of Social and Moral Hygiene. The intended beneficiaries are children between the ages of 6 and 15.

According to Smith, the movement is supported by 300 "of the best people in Terre Haute" and many more in other cities of the state.

Few people were more important to the effort than Albert R. Charman, professor of method at Indiana State Normal.

For nearly 15 years, Charman was a member of the County Board of Charities of Vigo County, serving successively as secretary and president. He also served as a member of the board of trustees of the Florence Crittenton Home of Terre Haute.

In 1907, Charman was elected chairman of a committee to investigate the prevention of immorality among the young. Miss Smith, Thomas Fitzgibbons of Columbus and Charlotte Dye, superintendent of the Indiana Girls School in Indianapolis were also on the committee.

By 1911, the Florence Crittenton Home of Terre Haute was considered the top facility of its kind in the state. The local board consisted of Stella C. Stimson, president; Julius F. Ermisch, vice president; Professor Charman, recording secretary; Charles McKeen, corresponding secretary; and Dow R. Gwinn, treasurer.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

MIKE McCORMICK

The age of the residents, often referred to as "inmates," ranged from 12 to 20. The majority were under 16 years old.

No one was admitted to the home unless she promised to stay at least 6 months and abide by all rules and regulations. The great majority of the applications come from girls who are victims of ignorance or betrayal. Girls who have worked in houses of prostitution usually are not accepted unless the board is convinced that the applicant is repentant and sincerely desires to straighten out her life.

Most inmates come as referrals from the police, probation workers or charity organizations. Some are sent to the home by friends who become aware of their plight. Cards are placed in prominent places in the community as "signposts" to girls who are desperate or on the brink of turning to a life of shame.

The Terre Haute home and homes in Evansville, Vincennes, Princeton, Washington and Paris, Ill., among others, are considering the establishment of "substations" in rural areas nearby.

Once situated at the Terre Haute home, the girls were required to learn basic domestic skills. Merit rewards were given for promptness, neatness, faithfulness, cheerfulness, truthfulness, language, politeness, table manners, temper, obedience, criticism of management and initiative.

The education of the residents is not neglected, either.

After a girl resided in the home for a year, she is placed in a private home. The demand for Mrs. Smith's girls was great. Often, the girl and her child were eventually adopted members of the family.

If asked, "Mother Smith," as she was called by many, could recite many tales of heartache and anguish. One involved a teenage girl from Scotland, whose story became well known in the community though no one knew who she was or what she looked like. She was known as "Scotch Annie."

Scotch Annie and her older brother emigrated to the U.S. in 1907 and soon moved to Vigo County, where he married a Terre Haute girl. Annie lived with her brother and sister-in-law.

Though the reasons are not clear, Scotch Annie and her sister-in-law did not get along.

Annie tired to secure employment but, unable to find a place to live, she spent a few weeks in a house of ill fame. Unhappy with her decision to take that path, she begged her brother for shelter but he refused to have anything further to do with her.

When Mother Smith finally learned about the girl, Scotch Annie was pregnant. The young lady was taken to Florence Crittenton Home, where a little girl was born.

When the infant was 2 years old, board members of the home contacted Scotch Annie's brother, whose resolve was weakened when he met his niece for the first time.

One day a large package came to the home for Annie. It contained a substantial amount of clothing for mother and child. It also contained enough money to pay for a trip to Scotland.

The package was sent by Scotch Annie's brother.

Several weeks later, he accompanied his sister and her child to Union Station. Several members of the Florence Crittenton Home board were there, too.

Those who witnessed the separation of Annie and her brother in a Terre Haute depot will never forget it. It is among the most touching moments in the celebrated history of the home.

Charles N. Crittenton founded Florence Crittenton Homes at the request of and in memory of his daughter. Crittenton participated in the founding of 73 homes in the U.S. and several in China and Japan.

The owner of a drug store supply company, Crittenton became a millionaire but spent most of his life helping the unfortunate. Whenever a home was founded, Crittenton contributed $1,000. Other money was raised by subscription or donation.

Crittenton died in San Francisco at age 73 on Nov. 16, 1909.

The Florence Crittenton Home of Terre Haute closed in about 1976.